

Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Jan Hebert and I am a nurse care coordinator at Litchfield County Pediatrics and work specifically with children with special health care needs..

I am writing you to ask for your support of **Raised Senate Bill 354**, a bill that will create a music therapy license in Connecticut . This bill is important because it will allow Connecticut citizens to more easily access music therapy services, and it will protect the public by ensuring that these services are provided by trained and qualified practitioners.

Please note that my support of licensure for music therapy is dependent on some language changes which have been submitted as written testimony by Jennifer Sokira on behalf of the CT Task Force. These changes ensure that the license is reflective of current board certification requirements in music therapy and is not limiting to the practices of Board Certified Music Therapists currently in CT.

Specifically for patients like the ones I care for, being able to access music therapy offers our special needs children another dimension to their care that taps in to another part of their brain and offering them the opportunity to explore other avenues to help make them whole. These children have very limited opportunities since many of their days are spent with medical care and treatment or behavioral health appointments. They have few venues to explore other treatments and therapies that can help them to engage in social and emotional treatments. Each of these children need as many opportunities to find that one thing that will make them feel like they belong and are functional in their community. Since their parents are so strapped to the medical bills, providing the opportunity for music therapy to have third party coverage will alleviate some of the stress these families live with every day. I am whole heartedly in favor of the licensure of music therapy and have seen firsthand how this therapy supports the wellbeing of children with special needs

For these reasons, I ask that you please vote "yes" on **Raised Senate Bill 354!**

Sincerely,

*Jan Hebert RN*

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